

**PolyMet NorthMet Project EIS**  
**May 23, 2012 Sieve List Meeting**  
**Proposed Cooperating Agencies Mercury Issues Session**

**Issue**

**Statement:** Mercury has been identified by the Cooperating Agencies as an issue of high interest over the course of the NorthMet Project EIS. The EIS is broadly scoped to assess potential project-related mercury impacts for air and water resources, biota, cultural resources, and cumulative effects. Although varying degrees of mercury-related activity/discussion has occurred over the EIS to date, no mercury-specific forum has been conducted since the DEIS was released.

**Proposal:** The Co-lead Agencies propose to meet with the Cooperating Agencies regarding mercury for the NorthMet Project SDEIS.

**Purpose:** Check-in to ensure that Co-lead Agencies understanding of mercury-related concerns with the project is current for consideration in SDEIS chapter development.

**Participants:** Lead and other staff with air, water, or other expertise from these agencies:  
Co-lead Agencies; Cooperating Agencies; MPCA; & ERM.

**Location:** MPCA Offices – Duluth, MN.

**Date:** TBD / Doodle Poll Solicitations: Week of June 25 – 29    Week of July 9 – 14

**Format:** Face-to-face session with video feed to MPCA-St. Paul, EPA Chicago

**Structure:** One-day broken out into AM and PM sessions. The AM session is designed to provide a background to all participants in the mercury context, regulation, and potential project contributions. The PM session is to identify the Cooperating Agencies' current mercury-related points for consideration in SDEIS chapter development.

**Part 1: Mercury Background**

1. Overview of mercury cycle
2. Mercury Statewide TMDL
3. St. Louis River Toxics TMDL – including mercury
4. Summary of NorthMet Project mercury contributions
5. Questions

**Part 2: Mercury & NorthMet Project**

**Potential topic areas that have been raised to date:**

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Project relative to ongoing TMDLs   | - Sulfate & mercury methylation |
| - Baseline data                       | - Cumulative effects            |
| - Bioaccumulation                     | - Fish tissue concentrations    |
| - Lake Superior Mercury Standard      | - Subsistence fish consumption  |
| - Public health risks                 | - Proposed mercury mitigation   |
| - Impacts to wildlife and other biota | - Others?                       |

[Note: This list was developed from comments that have been supplied by the Cooperating Agencies' over the course of the EIS. It is high level with significant overlap across issues. The Co-leads are open to how to organize the discussion to ensure effective use of the time and staff resources.]